



# Red Tail Flyer

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## Tuskegee Town going from tents to trailers

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
332nd Public Affairs

Tuskegee Town is moving uptown.

Some have already moved, some have been notified of a pending change in address and some are just plain curious, but the transition from tents to modular trailers is underway.

"This is great for Balad," said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Altenbernd, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing first sergeant and Tuskegee Town mayor. "Those trailers are the nicest things I've ever seen at a deployed location and a lot more than I ever expected."

All Airmen who currently reside in tent city should be living in the friendly confines of the trailers by mid November.

"As long as the weather doesn't impact what the engineers need to do and we don't have any unforeseen delays, we should stay on schedule," said Senior Master Sgt. Aubrey Harvey, 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron superintendent and acting first sergeant. "We're setting the tone for the future here with this move."

The move to trailers, which started with senior NCOs, has now moved onto junior NCOs with officers transitioning in the third phase. But before a move is approved, the 332nd

ESVS is making sure the trailer is livable and up to standards.

"With the move we're actually transitioning from the Air Force managing the living area to KBR," Sergeant Harvey said. "So we are also making sure our quality of life issues are addressed prior to moving the Airmen over."

While a move like this may seem to be a simple task, small issues that may take a day or two Stateside are multiplied here because of logistics. Basic supplies and equipment needed to make the move sometimes are hard to come by.

"We have our standards in the states and those are the same standards that we apply in the field," Sergeant Harvey said. "The big difference is the time that we have to order supplies and getting them here. Sometimes we may have to go to a local source, so we may get some substandard supplies, but we adjust and move on."

Harvey said Housing Area 6, as the new area is currently known, will also offer many of the same amenities that tent city currently offers. But those services will probably not be completed and available for roughly a year or so.

Although KBR will manage and maintain the trailers, Airmen will still be responsible for general details. They must

### 9/11 Remembered



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

**Balad Air Base honor guard members Staff Sgt. SSgt Daniel Johnson (left), 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, and Senior Airman Michael Miller, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, perform a flag detail Saturday inside the Town Hall to honor the 9/11 terrorist attacks victims.**

take out their trash, change their air conditioner filter, check their fire extinguisher to make sure it works properly and keep the trailer nice and orderly among other things.

The move from tents to trailers is just one of many ways the leadership at Balad is working to take care of the mission first while strengthening the

Airmen.

"The pods are really awesome," Sergeant Altenbernd said. "This shows we are really committed to taking care of our people."

"We are doing what we can do to make life better for the people here at Balad," Sergeant Harvey said. "That is our main goal at services."

# Patriot Detail: Honoring the fallen with final salute

## Saying goodbye with respect, dignity, pride

Master Sgt. Robert Branham

332nd ESFS first sergeant

Somewhere in America a family member is waiting for their relative to return home. He is returning early, having served his profession with pride and excellence.

We won't be there to honor his arrival, but we were there when more than 100 of his fellow professionals saw him off with respect and dignity. His title, and the title of thousands of his like-minded brothers and sisters, is specialist. For their profession is to defend the United States of America.

The Soldiers of his unit and the Airmen of our 332nd Expeditionary Wing stood at attention, in a cordon of desert camouflage uniforms, as six of his unit's young men stood ready to carry their brother to his place on the start of his journey home. Just before they begin their solemn march, we are ordered to present arms, and for three seconds our right arms were slowly raised to touch the corner of our eyes. As the detail passed we held our salute, honoring our comrade in arms and the Stars and Stripes as they pass by. We held our salute until he was secured in his place of honor, then after the first sergeant's command, we slowly brought our arms to our side.

Still at attention, with eyes strait ahead, I could observe several faces with trails of tears, men and women alike, young and old. For we have lost one of our own. One who put service before self.



Air Force/Senior Master Sgt. Robert Altenbernd

**Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing form up on the flightline to honor a fallen comrade.**

Next the Army chaplain marched between our columns to join his troop on the plane. Only then were we released from formation, but told we may march onto the plane for the Chaplain's comments. No one walked away. Every member of the formation joined together, side by side, until there was no room to stand inside the plane. But the others stood respectfully just outside the plane's rear entrance, as the chaplain recited the 23rd Psalm before he said a prayer for our departing brother and his family.

Slowly we left the plane so the specialist could begin the journey home. As I looked back into the cargo bay, I saw something I will never forget. Members of his unit saluted the flag on their own; some touched

it respectfully. One soldier leaned over and put his forehead briefly next to the stars, as if putting his forehead on his brother's forehead.

As our Air Force members slowly left the area, the Army again fell into formation. They stood at attention as the plane rolled away.

Yes, somewhere someone is waiting for their loved one's final journey home. We wish he hadn't left early. We gave him a final salute with heartfelt pride and professional excellence. His sacrifice to duty, honor, and country demanded we offer no less. We are the profession of arms. All of us made a commitment to serve. Most of us made some sacrifice while in service. Some made the ultimate sacrifice.

# Got a story?

Know someone in your unit that has a unique story/hobby, or are you interested in writing a story?

Call The Red Tail Flyer at 458-1064 or e-mail:

**redtailflyer@blab.af.mil**





# 100% SAFE –

*How the Tuskegee Airmen achieved a perfect bomber record*

A. Joseph Muniz  
AFOSI EDET 2411

Quick, name a world record that hasn't been broken.

Some will mention Nolan Ryan's seven no-hitters. Some might mention Johnny Unitas' 47 consecutive games with a touchdown pass, which may never be broken. Few, if any, will ever mention the number zero. As in the Tuskegee Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Wing lost 'zero' bombers to enemy aircraft throughout the war in Europe, again a record that may never be broken or equaled.

How did the wing get assigned to escort bombers in Germany during the height of World War II? Who made the decision to assign the Tuskegee Airmen to this mission? It was done as a last ditch effort to save American lives and at the same time defeat the Axis' power.

Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker was in command of trying to develop a way for the 8th Air Force to bomb Germany during daylight hours. After announcing he was going to organize a bomber fleet that was dedicated to bombing Germany during daylight hours, General Eaker's British counterparts quickly advised against the plan for two reasons. First, the range for which they would fly from England to Germany, although it wasn't a problem for the bombers, was too far for fighter escorts. Second, it would leave the bombers to fight enemy aircraft by themselves, which resulted in heavy bomber losses.

Regrettably, General Eaker found out that the British knew what they were talking about.



Courtesy art

**Two Tuskegee P-51 Mustangs fend off a German fighter during an escort mission.**

After arranging for fighters to escort bombers into Germany, another problem that arose was those fighter pilots, once engaged by the enemy, would leave the bombers alone to seek personal glory in shooting down as many aircraft as possible.

Seeing that General Eaker's campaign against the Germans was failing, General "Hap" Arnold, commander of the Army Air Corps, and a personal friend of Eaker, wrote a memo stating that he still had confidence in his abilities, but he was perhaps too loyal to incompetent aides.

General Eaker, seeing that his career was on the line and after taking command of 15th Air Force, summoned Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., commander of the 332nd Fighter Wing, to his office. Eaker told Davis about his problems with commanders and pilots and also about his idea of close support

for bombers. General Eaker stated that he wanted commanders and pilots that would forgo personal glory in favor of protecting the lives of bomber crews. Knowing exactly what General Eaker was looking for, Davis ensured his superior officer that his orders would be carried out.

At the time, what Colonel Davis did not tell General Eaker was that his men would also seek personal glory. Davis knew that since his men had previously been stationed so far out of enemy action, that they were eager to prove themselves. So he did the only thing he could do; he threatened them. Davis called an assembly of all his pilots and briefed them on what General Eaker wanted. He stated that the primary job was to protect the bombers and if he got word that anyone broke formation to chase an enemy aircraft, they would not only be

grounded, but he would personally see to it that the individual was court-martialed. Most pilots openly admitted that being grounded hurt more than being court-martialed.

General Eaker also did something that was very unpopular to other fighter wings. Because he knew he had found his fighter group to protect his bombers, Eaker gave his newly found fighter wing a gift; the brand new P-51 Mustangs. These planes were designed to travel long distances and were state-of-the-art during the war.

Having the newest planes assigned to the 332nd Fighter Wing did not sit well with the other pilots in other fighter groups. After the war, General Eaker became a lifelong friend of Colonel Davis because of what he had done for him during the war and continued to support him and the Tuskegee Airmen afterward.

## Former world champions visit Balad to show support

# Tandem pose for photos, talk glory days with Airmen

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd Public Affairs

Two former world champions visited Balad Air Base Tuesday, showing their support for the Airmen and hoping to boost morale.

Rob Dibble, former major league pitcher and World Series champion with the 1990 Cincinnati Reds, and “Diamond” Dallas Page, former professional wrestler and three-time WCW World Champion, ate with the troops at Dining Facility One and signed autographs and posed for photos at the Panther Pavilion.

"It's a real morale boost having them here," said Staff Sgt. Bruce Handy, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron security escort, deployed from Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. "For them to come here really shows courage."

The two have been touring the area of responsibility since arriving in Kuwait Sept. 7, making two-to-three stops a day for meet and greets.

“This really takes a lot for them to come over here,” said Airman 1st Class Anthony McKee, 332nd ECES, also deployed from Elmendorf AFB.



**Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen**

**Staff Sgt. Bruce Handy, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron security escort, gets an autograph from “Diamond” Dallas Page as Rob Dibble watches on.**

"I'm sure they have families and it's great that they are showing their support for what we are doing."

For Dibble, who now works for ESPN as a radio co-host with Dan Patrick and on Baseball Tonight, the trip was more than he anticipated.

"I asked to do this a year ago because it means that much to me," Dibble said. "This is my two-week vacation from ESPN, and it has been the most worthwhile, best endeavor of my life by far."

Page, who now works as an actor and motivational speaker, visited the Pacific rim on a similar tour last year and couldn't wait to get to the front lines and

offer his support.

"For me this is what it's all about," Page said. "It's important for the troops to know that we are proud of them and that we support them."

Dibble and Page both feel that people stateside are only getting half of the story about what is actually going on.”

"All we hear on TV is that we shouldn't be over here and how many Iraqi's were killed today," Dibble said. "When really we're over here trying to help this country get back on its feet and the story should be about what the amazing things our troops are doing on a daily basis."

“What’s amazing to me is

that these troops, who are mostly just kids, come over here and do this and continue to reenlist," Page said. "That just shows you what type of people they are."

Airmen also got the opportunity to try on Dibble's World Series ring and hold Page's world championship belt and talk with the former superstars about their careers and their tour here in the AOR.

“Everyday here is Tuesday, so this really helps to break it up,” said Senior Airman Paul Ducharme, 332nd ECES, deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. “They are really showing that they are thinking about us.”

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# DECISION 2004

Gen. John P. Jumper

*Air Force chief of staff*

Around the world, the Airmen of our United States Air Force make a difference. From the collapse of the Soviet Union and Desert Storm more than a decade ago to our global planning and execution of air and space power today, Airmen have done more than their part for our nation. In the coming months, we need to make a difference in another way. We all need to exercise the privilege only enjoyed by free nations -- the privilege of voting.

Most of you have been deployed in an Air Expeditionary Force since you have been in the Air Force. You have seen our way of life compared to others in troubled parts of the world. While we as Americans are not without our problems and issues, if all the borders of all the nations of the world were open to all people, where do you think most would choose to reside? There is little doubt that it would be in the Land of the Free.

There have been many books written in recent years about our founding fathers -- the men who wrote the powerful words that forged a new nation. In our Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson penned a phrase that is the cornerstone of our democratic institutions and makes us unique among nations. He wrote, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." It is this idea of the "Consent of the Governed" that empowers each of us in the form of our vote.

Many of us have experienced some obstacles to voting while serving in the armed forces. The absentee voting system has traditionally been fraught with challenges, but we have been working hard to minimize the red tape. With Airmen and their families serving around the globe, many suffer from delays in mail service -- another obstacle to registering and voting. Our leadership in the Department of Defense has worked with the U.S. Postal Service to give priority to voting materials in the mail system. To facilitate the voting process, we have also created a user-friendly voting link called "Airmen Votes" on our Air Force Link website for you and your families to use. The "Airmen Votes" icon on



the Air Force Link website, [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil) <http://www.af.mil>, will guide you to all the information you need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request, and send in an absentee ballot. In most cases, all you need to do is fill out a postcard and mail it in. Guidance is available for all states and territories and for those Airmen living overseas. Your family members who are eligible to vote can use this web link as well, including children away from home while attending school. If you still have questions, contact your Voting Assistance Officers -- they are available to address your voting questions or concerns. We want to make voting as easy as possible.

The Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Jim Roche, and I are dedicated to ensuring every eligible Airman has the opportunity to vote. As Airmen we have all taken an oath to support and defend the Constitution that guarantees our right to vote. As a nation we accept divergence of opinion and candidates with different views. I encourage you to avail yourself of the right to vote for candidates and on the issues of your choice. No other single act is so fundamental to our form of government. Please register. Please vote.

I urge you to exercise your right to vote. If there was any doubt that every vote counts, past presidential elections have proved that it does! Just a few votes can decide the outcome of an election. As we pave the way for democratic governments in Afghanistan and Iraq, it is only fitting that we provide an example of democracy in action by engaging in the democratic process at home. We protect democracy

through our military duty and service to our country, but we also protect democracy when we vote. Democracy only works when we fulfill their obligation to cast their ballot.

This year, Americans will have the opportunity once again to exercise that right by going to the polls to vote for the President and Vice President, members of Congress, as well as thousands of local officials. Even if you are stationed far from your home of record, you can vote through the absentee ballot process. This is true whether you are stationed one state away or deployed to another country.

The absentee voting process is not without problems, but we are working to minimize them. As a result of America's global posture, many of our Airmen deployed in combat environments and other locations do not receive timely mail services. The Department of Defense has coordinated efforts with the U.S. Postal Service in order to better serve these members and their voting needs.

Secretary Roche and I are dedicated to ensuring every eligible Airman has the opportunity to vote. Historically, Airmen lead the public at large in exercising this fundamental right and duty of citizenship. We'd like to see this trend continue. To this end, voter assistance officers reside within each of your units who are responsible for answering your questions about elections and facilitating the voting process.

Voting is now easier than it has ever been before. If you'd like to register to vote or get information on voting procedures then access <http://www.fvap.gov>. This webpage provides simple instructions on what to do. In most cases, all you need to do is fill out a post card and mail it in. Guidance is available for all states and for those Airmen living overseas. Furthermore, contact your voting assistance officers -- these people are available to address your voting questions or concerns.

We all have an important voice that should be heard and heeded by our government. When we go to the polls, we can express our views through the democratic process. As members of the world's greatest Air Force, we labor so that others may vote; let's make sure we exercise that same right.

See you at the polls!

## Defense briefs —

### Soldier reenlists after surviving IED attack

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Sgt. Charles K. Bartles first enlisted in the military eight years ago and renewed that commitment again Sept. 9 when he pledged to continue serving his country as a civil affairs specialist in the Army Reserve for six more years.

But this time, Bartles didn't raise his right hand, he raised an artificial limb.

Bartles reenlistment is an important milestone in his personal life, as well as the Army's history. He is one of the few Soldiers with an arm amputated above the elbow who has been allowed to reenlist in the history of the modern Army, according to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School here.

Bartles joined the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion, based out of Belton, Mo., three years ago and deployed with them in October 2003. While deployed, Bartles was involved in an improved explosive device attack that caused him to lose most of his right arm.

Where he once had an elbow, forearm, hand and five fingers, he now wears a prosthetic limb with a hook. But he still chooses to serve his country during a time of war.

And Bartles said he would be ready to deploy again if called upon.

"Maybe in the next year or so," he said about the possibility of a future deployment. "If it happens, it happens."

### 'We've Been Waiting for You' returns

WASHINGTON -- The secretary of the Air Force unveiled a new Air Force television advertising campaign Sept. 13 at the Air Force Association's 2004 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition here.

The four 30-second ads are a continuation of the "We've Been Waiting for You" theme, showing how young people can relate their interests and passions to a career in the Air Force.

"We tried to create storylines around different positions," said Brian Born, creative director for the commercials. "People tend to think each time it's going to be a pilot. But only a small percentage of Airmen are pilots, so what do the rest do? We're trying to show it's about teamwork. No one does anything alone."

The storylines for this set of ads highlight a variety of careers.

The ads are scheduled to run primarily during programming targeting young adults, ages 18 to 24, on network, syndicated and cable TV.

### First shirt, last shot



Air Force/Master Sgt. Kimberly Hall

**Senior Master Sgt. Robert Altenbernd, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing first sergeant, gets his final Anthrax shot courtesy of Staff Sgt. Ephraim Alvarez, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group. The 332nd EMDG would like to remind all Balad Airmen to get up-to-date on all of their vaccinations upon arrival.**

# Happy Birthday

## U.S. Air Force

The Department of the Air Force was born  
Sept. 18, 1947 when the first Secretary  
of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington  
was sworn in and the U.S. Army  
transferred over all  
air activities.





## PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions at Balad Air Base. Submit questions to [public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:public.health@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil).

**Q** : How can I help protect myself from communicable diseases like colds, flu and diarrhea?

**A** : Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

Hand washing, when done correctly, is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Good hand washing technique is easy to learn and can significantly reduce the spread of infectious diseases.

Follow these four simple steps to keeping hands clean:

1. Wet your hands with warm running water
2. Add soap, and then rub your hands together, making a soapy lather. Do this away from the running water for at least 10 seconds, being careful not to wash the lather away. Wash the front and back of your hands, as well as between your fingers and under your nails
3. Rinse your hands well under warm running water. Let the water run back into the sink, not down your arms
4. Dry hands thoroughly with a clean disposable paper towel

Wash your hands:

1. Before and after eating
2. After using the latrine
3. After blowing your nose
4. Before and after smoking a cigarette or using other tobacco products
5. After handling garbage, soil, etc

Hand disinfection with hand sanitizers:

If water for washing hands is unavailable, disinfect your hands with a hand sanitizer such as Purell®. Alcohol rubs, gels and rinses containing more than 60% alcohol are excellent hand disinfectants. They work best after gross contamination (dirt) has been removed first. Apply enough disinfectant to make about the size of a dime onto your hands so that when you rub your hands together all areas of your hands are covered including under your nails. Use a rubbing motion to evenly distribute the disinfectant product for about 15 seconds, or until your hands feel dry, whichever is longer.

By paying close attention to the cleanliness of your hands, you can significantly reduce your likelihood of being infected with an unpleasant and/or potentially life-threatening disease.

## Meet your neighbor



**Staff Sgt. Sonja Berry**

Home station: Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

Unit: 332nd EMEDS

Family: Kailynn T. Garcia, 5 year-old daughter

Hobbies: Fitness, outdoor activities and spending time with my daughter.

How do I contribute to the mission? Practice preventive medicine to help deter disease and non-battle injuries in field conditions.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? Being able to help keep our Airmen healthy.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? The seasonal changes. The fall is my favorite season.



**Sounds of Home**

**107.3 FM**

**AFN Iraq**



### T-Town Chapel Schedule

#### Sundays:

Protestant Religious Education, 8 a.m.  
Protestant Worship, 9 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.  
LDS Sacrament meeting, 7 p.m.  
LDS S.S., 8 p.m.

#### Mondays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesdays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.  
Catholic Discussion Group, 8 p.m.

#### Wednesdays:

Catholic Mass, 11 a.m.  
Purpose Driven Life, 8 p.m.

#### Thursday:

LDS Study Group – 7 p.m.

#### Friday:

Catholic Mass – 5:30 p.m.  
Women's Fellowship – 7 p.m.

#### Saturday:

Catholic Reconciliation/Confession – 12:15-12:30 p.m., or appointment  
Catholic Mass – 12:30 p.m.  
Protestant Communion – 7 p.m.

#### Daily:

Band of Brothers (Men's Fellowship), 8:30 p.m.  
Christian Prayer, 9 p.m.

### Know what this is?



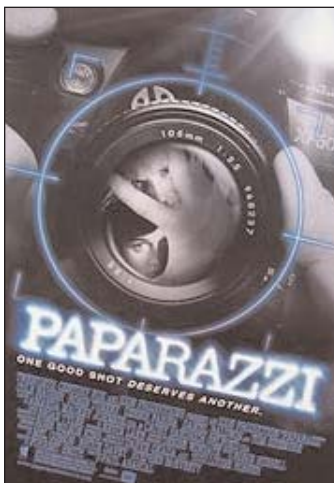
Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Each week, the *Red Tail Flyer* staff will take a photo from around Balad Air Base. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at [redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil](mailto:redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil) with *Identify This!* in the subject block. The first person who sends in the correct answer wins a prize and will get their name printed in this publication.



# Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today  
3 p.m. - Paparazzi  
6 p.m. - Paparazzi  
9 p.m. - Paparazzi

Saturday  
3 p.m. -  
Thunderbirds  
6 p.m. - Paparazzi  
9 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy

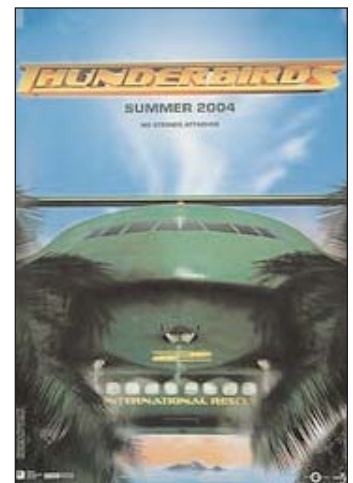
Sunday  
3 p.m. - King Arthur  
6 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy

9 p.m. - Paparazzi  
Monday  
3 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy  
6 p.m. - White  
Chicks  
9 p.m. -  
Thunderbirds

Tuesday  
3 p.m. - Paparazzi  
6 p.m. -  
Thunderbirds  
9 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy

Wednesday  
3 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy  
6 p.m. - Paparazzi  
9 p.m. -  
Thunderbirds

Thursday  
3 p.m. -  
Thunderbirds  
6 p.m. - The Bourne  
Supremacy  
9 p.m. - Paparazzi



### 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Editorial Staff

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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

**The deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Tuesday prior to the date of publication.**